



Activity that blends a quick practical lesson with a specific scenario driven debate on best environmental practices in various outdoor sports and environments.



Learning experience



Topics



1 hour

Guiding, planning and preparing ahead

Dealing with impacts

(Environmental) impact of outdoor sports in different habitats (including fauna, flora, landowners, invasive species etc.)



Participants

- Know about possible impacts and dilemmas in OS when leading a group
- Have an increased awareness of the challenges in different habitats
- Are able to develop solutions to common outdoor dilemmas in various habitats
- Are able to make judgments and take decisions (based on audience, safety, environmental impacts etc.)



Suitable for
outdoor sport instructors



(Practical sessions)
Theoretical lessons



Outdoor F2F
Indoor F2F
(Digital with breakout rooms)



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Materials needed

Dilemma cards
(See appendix for examples)



Preparation

Introduction of impacts in outdoor environments

- Let the group move in (or through) the area as they would normally do. After a few minutes of hiking (or other activity) ask the group if their hike causes any negative impacts on the environment.
- Now ask the group if there is anything they could do better (next time) to reduce the impacts (particularly if they are leading a group).

Activity instruction

Divide the participants into smaller groups. If they are coming from different sports or regions, group them according to the habitat their sport most closely occurs in (Water, Upland, Woodland or Field / Open Area)

- Each group should discuss and share how when carrying out and leading their sports they avoid causing environmental impacts.
- Give each group a scenario card that outlines an unexpected and difficult scenario that could occur during their sport.

Reflection and discussion

- The groups will then discuss what practical ideas they could apply to their sport in order to help reduce potential (environmental) impacts.



DILEMMAS IN DIFFERENT HABITATS



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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Background knowledge

The main pedagogical approach to learning with this activity is experiential learning, acknowledged by the fact that the substance is in drawing on the varied experience and perspectives within a group regarding the different scenarios, conceptualizing new knowledge from those and drawing conclusions based on their application.



Key words

#dilemmas
#impacts of OS
#habitats



Source

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Materials

Dilemma cards

Habitat – Campsite

You are leading a camping trip with a group. You have picked a place just outside the boarder of a protected area, so you are not breaking any laws and the area is still wild and pristine. During the evening the groups ask if they can light a fire to make the trip memorable.

As the group leader, what will you do?

Habitat – Hiking Trail

You are out hiking with a group and after some time, the group decides to take a snack break. The group has generally been responsible with their impact but upon finishing their snacks, they throw both apple cores and orange peels into nature, but out of sight from the trail. Your group is expecting another 3 hours of activities, with scheduled lunch yet to happen.

As the group leader, what will you do?

Habitat – Meadow

You are out with a group of primary school students you have been leading through a Nature Engagement Program. During lunchtime, one student curiously explores a nearby meadow of blooming wildflowers. They decide to make a flower crown/hat with all the beautiful colors and pick some to bring home to their parents. Upon returning to the group, their idea inspires the whole group to want to do the same.

As the group leader, what will you do?

More activities under see-project.eu



Habitat – Field / Open Area

After several hours of activity in an open green area / field you lead your group away to get lunch. Upon returning you find that there is now a family group having a picnic in the area you were previously using. There are several other green spaces in the area. One is a wildflower meadow just starting to bloom and the other has been moderately impacted by recent campfires and litter. Your group is expecting another 3 hours of activities.

As the group leader, what will you do?

Habitat – Open water

Due to an exceptionally large spring tide, your landing/beach point has become covered in water. The landing area is now a seawall. With the strong winds currently affecting the area, it would be very dangerous to attempt to land there now. There are two other landing spots in the area. One is about 500 metres down the shore, this leads straight onto a protected sand dune system. The other is 1.5 km in the other direction and would mean a 2 km walk back to the car park.

As the group leader, what will you do?

Habitat – River

You are leading an expedition for a large school group of about 30 students, down a stretch of river with a gentle flow. As there is a larger group, you have broken into 3 smaller teams. Your group is the first down the river. On route, you come across a section of about 100m with numerous fishermen with lines in the water.

As the group leader, what will you do?



Habitat – Rock Face

You are working with a group as a climbing guide and have been employed to bring a group climbing on a remote rockface. There is a place you are aware of that has bolted anchors and you decide this is the best place for a commercial activity. Upon setting up your lines and abseiling down the cliff-face to assess the route, you find there are nesting birds right along your line and in the general area. Your group is expecting another 3 hours of activities.

As the group leader, what will you do?

Habitat – Upland

While using an upland area for your activity you are approached by the landowner. You have a good relationship with this landowner and they have always granted you permission to carry out your activities on their land. They seem distraught and inform you that due to several attacks on their sheep from dogs in recent months that they are removing access to their land from everybody. They don't blame you but don't want people to see activity on their land presuming it is okay to use. Your group is expecting a week of activities that you had planned to carry out on this land.

As the group leader, what will you do?

Habitat – Woodland

After about 3 hours into your session with the group you realise the area of woodland you have been using up to now has a large number of invasive species present. You have very likely been passing through them up to now with the group, you are also unlikely to be able to avoid them for the rest of your planned activities for the day. The group has paid for the day and is expecting 6 hours of activity.

As the group leader, what will you do?